

# The Brethren Evangelist,

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## THE YEAR 1894.

Within a few days the year 1894 will have gone into the eternal past and will be numbered with the countless years of the ages that have gone before. A year of 365 days, each day containing twenty-four hours, each hour sixty minutes and each minute sixty seconds. Gone! yes, gone. For how long? Forever. Never to be heard of again? No. Its record has been made and sealed up for the great day of reckoning. Our thoughts, our words our deeds have been written by the invisible hand of God.

In many respects, the year 1894 has been a remarkable one. There has been no other year exactly like it, but this is true of all years. At the beginning of each new year we can truly say, "We have never gone this way before." However large and wide our experiences, trials and triumphs, failures and successes, they are in every sense new. The experience of the past, which while a great help for the future is not a sure and infallible guide. The very things which led to success in former years, may, in the years to come, lead to failure, while that which ended in failure may now crown your efforts with success. Conditions of society change and those things which we did in the past may not always be the best things to do in the future. We should be wise therefore and exercise judgment in the use we make of our experience. We would by no means be little the value of a wide experience as a help and preparation for future duties, but we insist that people should not depend too much on their past experiences. The fact that you have made \$500 clear purchasing and selling, is not evidence that you can do the same thing again. Study the law of cause and effect familiarize yourself with the conditions of human society and your present environments.

The past of our life is not lost. The memories of the year 1894, whether pleasant or sad will live in our hearts and minds. We could not if we would, and we would

not if we could, obliterate the memories of the past. Would anyone be willing to forget, even the sad memories of life, at the sacrifice of the pleasant associations, the happy recollections, the joys and sweet things of the years that have gone? Surely not. There are at least *some* pleasant things in every human life. The happy recollections of our childhood, the pleasant memories of our school-days, the sweet fellowship of friends who have gone to their rest, the thoughts that live in our hearts, of the tender little ones whom we have laid away in God's acre—would you give up these, that you might forget the unpleasant things of life? Never.

It remains for us to improve the time God has given us. We are responsible for the use we make of it. It is a gift from God as much so as our life, and it should be employed for his honor and glory. Let each one ask the question. "How old am I?" Not merely in years, but in actual service for God. How far advanced in the divine life, in the knowledge and truth of Jesus, for *life*, real LIFE is not measured by years, but by service to God and man. Have you started in this divine, higher life of God in the soul. How far have you advanced in it? It is well that at the close of this year we should take a look over the past and see where in we have erred, where we have failed, where we have come short of our duties, and not repeat the errors, failures, and short-comings in the year upon which we are about to enter.

## GRACE FOR TO-DAY.

Mr. Moody once remarked that he does not pray for grace, for the duties of the morrow, but for to-day, the present now. This is what each Christian needs and no more. We need light and grace and strength for the duties of the *present hour*; these done, we will be ready for others that may follow. There are too many people whose duties it seems are always in the future. We need above all else the grace of God for the duties which are *now*, this moment, before you. How often we worry about the work of to-morrow. Why should we? "Take no thought for the morrow." We are taught to pray for "daily bread," not for bread to last a whole year but *daily* bread, as it is required. So let us do the duties of to-day, and tomorrow's duties will never worry us. He who is ready for the work of the *hours* as they come will be ready for the work of a lifetime.

## OLD PEOPLE.

There *are* old people in the world, a great many of them. They are entitled to the regard and respect, which too often is withheld from them. We are living in a busy age, and the tendency is toward setting the old aside and filling all important places with young people. This, in our judgment is a dangerous tendency. The young people have their place and their work, and should have the encouragement of the old. But surely it is unwise to set aside old men and tried, and as is too often the case, their counsel also. Old age, it is true, does not in itself prove capacity or fitness for work, but surely we cannot exclude from the category of superior influence, the benefit of experience and the advantages of time in the accumulation of knowledge and wisdom. Elihu in the book of Job expresses a beautiful sentiment when he says: "Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom." The course of Rehoboam is condemned for forsaking "the counsel which old men gave him and took counsel with the young men that were with him." The inspired word declares: "With the ancient is wisdom, and in length of days understanding." So also Job: "Unto me men gave ear and waited, and kept silence at my counsel, but now they that are younger than I have me in derision."

It is unwise for the church to set aside its old men and their counsel. Years of experience in the Master's cause, enables them to speak with authority and it were often far better to heed the counsel of aged fathers and mothers in Israel, than be led by the sentiment of what is too often but a giddy youth. We would not discourage the young, we need more of them, we need their service *must* have them. But we need also the counsel of the old, and to them we owe respect and reverence. The church needs these old soldiers who have been in the service these long years. The youth of to-day does not show that politeness, tender regard and reverence which the aged deserve; often it is an oversight or want of good manners, but whatever the cause may be, the young need to learn to have respect for the aged, to treat them kindly, and do all they can to make their declining years pleasant and happy.

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